

Message Text

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT/BOWDEN

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TAGS: BGEN, UR, US

SUBJ: ISSUES FOR MEETING OF US-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION-
VISAS FOR U.S. EXHIBIT PERSONNEL

1. DURING PERIOD LEADING UP TO STANKI AND HEALTH EXHIBITIONS, WE HAVE RUN INTO REPEATED PROBLEMS OBTAINING SOVIET VISAS FOR USDOC PERSONNEL. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE, CHIEF OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S EXHIBITIONS DIRECTORATE K.G. OGANESYAN ADVISED IN LETTER DATED APRIL 4, 1974 THAT CHAMBER'S POLICY WAS TO SUPPORT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR EXHIBIT PERSONNEL DURING PERIOD OF SPACE RENTAL CONTRACT, I.E., THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO OPENING, PERIOD OF EXHIBIT ITSELF, AND THREE WEEKS AFTER CLOSE. OGANESYAN NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EXCEPTIONS TO THIS ROUTINE WOULD BE POSSIBLE ON BASIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHAMBER AND U.S. ORGANIZER.

2. OGANESYAN'S SUGGESTION THAT MORE FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISAS CAN BE WORKED OUT ON BASIS AGREEMENT IS ENCOURAGING, BUT THIS SEEMS POSSIBLE PRIMARILY IN CASES OF EXHIBITIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1974 POLYMERY SHOW FOR WHICH CONDITIONS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED. IN CASE OF MAY/JUNE 1975 TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXHIBITION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT COMMERCE DETERMINE IN ADVANCE PERIODS DURING WHICH USDOC PERSONNEL WISH TO BE IN MOSCOW AND HAVE THIS INCLUDED IN SPACE RENTAL AGREEMENT. ON GENERAL QUESTION OF VISAS FOR EXHIBIT PERSONNEL, EMBASSY

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BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR U.S. SIDE AT UPCOMING

MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION TO MAKE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION:

A) IN PREPARING FOR THE U.S. STANKI EXHIBITION AND THE U.S. EXHIBIT IN HEALTH-74, THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS HAD PROBLEMS OBTAINING NECESSARY VISAS FOR ITS PERSONNEL WORKING ON THIS EXHIBITIONS. AFTER DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH THE USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE CHAMBER THAT ITS BASIC POLICY IS TO SUPPORT VISAS FOR PERSONS COMING TO MOSCOW FOR EXHIBITIONS NO EARLIER THAN THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION IN QUESTION. ON THE BASIS OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WITH EXHIBITIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES, THIS WOULD NOT ALLOW OUR REPRESENTATIVES SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE OUR EXHIBITS.

B) WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET COMMERCIAL EXHIBITIONS IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO COMPLICATE THIS PROGRAM OVER MINOR QUESTION SUCH AS VISAS.

C) ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD WELCOME AN ASSURANCE FROM THE SOVIET SIDE THAT OUR REQUESTS FOR FACILITATION OF VISA APPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EXHIBIT PERSONNEL WILL BE HANDLED POSITIVELY BY THE USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.
STOESSEL

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